

Bill Stevens is retiring.... campus community expresses disbelief

"He's not the retiring type," stated a campus spokesperson, A. Nonymous, as the news of the retirement of Mr. William Stevens spread like wildfire across Kendall Green this past summer. When asked, in return, by this reporter what type Stevens was, the spokesperson hedged.

"Helvetica," he/she was thought to mumble, while fingerspelling "Palatino Bold . . . Goudy Oldstyle."

But, regardless of type, it was clear that the rumor was indeed true. William Stevens, '42, faculty member and director of the Gallaudet Print Shop for seemingly countless years, was indeed retiring.

The news resulted in a surge of requests for printing services unprecedented in Gallaudet's history as people brought jobs in to be printed

before Stevens' official retirement occurred (Sept. 6).

"We've never seen such a demand for requests during the summer months," stated Gary.

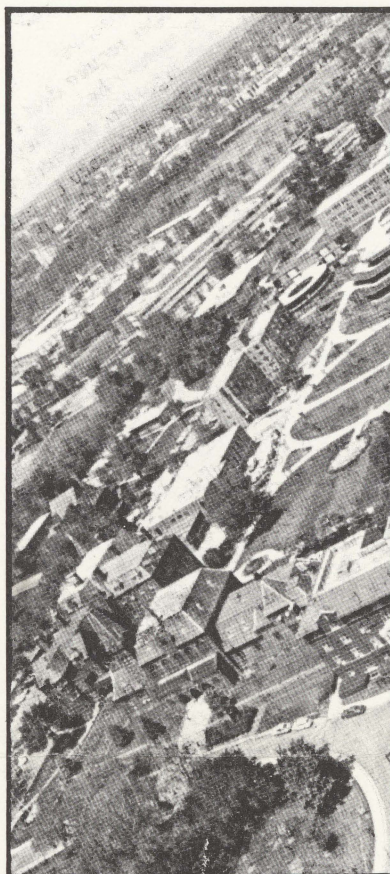
"It's as if people believe Bill's been doing all this work himself and it can't be done after he's gone," said the other Gary.

"Please don't confuse me with either of those Gary's — just call me Mike," added the third Gary on the staff as he confirmed that this has been the busiest summer in Print Shop history.

"Is there really printer's ink in Stevens' veins?" asked our reporter. No one on the staff was prepared to comment, but all agreed there's a linotype in his heart.

Gallaudet's loss will be the NAD's gain as Stevens has agreed to work as a volunteer with the NAD national office in Silver Spring.

"Bill will certainly be missed at Gallaudet," said another campus administrator. "It's de-pressing . . ." — a graphic and multi-plex response that could be heard (seen) to step and repeat across campus.



The Kendall Green campus reeled as it learned of the resignation of Print Shop Director Stevens.

Will the real W.E. Stevens Please stand up.

Trying to identify Bill Stevens' role at Gallaudet over the years is a difficult task. To begin with, there is the question of his name.

Campus records have him listed as often as W. Earl Stevens as they do as William E. Stevens.

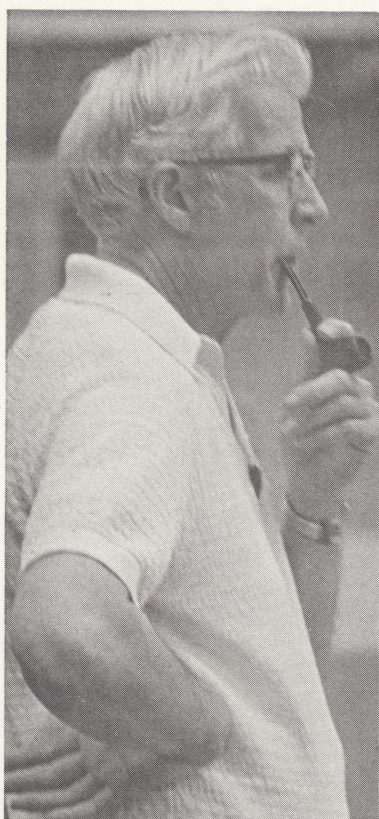
As Earl Stevens, he served as treasurer of the Gallaudet College Alumni Association from 1957-1963. As William Stevens he was coach of the Gallaudet cross country team from 1963-1965.

He came to Gallaudet as an undergraduate from the Kentucky School for the Deaf, yet claimed himself a Texan. He was captain of the track team in 1940-41 and (again as Earl) was advertising manager of the 1942 Tower Clock. Although known as "Shorty" he was the tallest member of the Class of '42.

Today, many think of him as Lion Stevens — active not only in the Alexandria-Potomac Lions Club, but also in district Lions activities. Other printers around the nations know him as a respected colleague.

How do you sum up Bill (Earl?) Stevens? "Just say he stands out in a crowd," said a friend, describing his now white hair and ever-present pipe, but noting especially, "and you can always count on him."

Stevens' "motto" (below) was well known to all users of Print Shop services.



William (and/or) Earl Stevens in a typical pose.

